Agenda Item #12

Thin Client

1 Mar 06

Army Standing Committee Meeting

Current MCA

- Installing thick client solutions – stand alone systems
- Thin client suggested as a cost savings proposal
  - Minimal MILCON cost savings
  - Savings occurs theoretically in O&M
  - Servers become more costly

Benefits of Thin Client

- Lower O&M costs
- Users no longer have software upgrade or other software problems/issues
- Works well in multi-level security environments
- Users have greater access to their files and sessions from any authorized thin client station
- Data resides at the server so a better level of data security can be realized

Disadvantages of Thin Client

- Closet square footage, power and cooling requirements could increase (all MILCON costs)
- User can only access those functions available through the server
- When the servers go down users lose the ability to continue working at their desktop
- Impact on VPNs for remote access or telecommuting
- Depending on the equipment and configuration, bandwidth could become an issue
- Poor multimedia performance

Successful Deployments

- Fort Huachuca Intelligence School
- Walter Reed Army Medical Center
- Veterans Administration
- PEO C3T Cross Domain Trusted Solaris Solution
- DoD Missile Defense Agency, Arlington